

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 9 to read as follows:

It has been discovered that the application of aggregate particles to the surface of a molded or cast acoustical ceiling tile will provide a very durable, abuse-resistant tile which also has excellent sound absorption values (NRC). The aggregate particles are applied to the wet molded or cast ceiling tile substrate. The wet molded or cast ceiling tile substrate comprises a slurry or pulp ~~consisting essentially of~~ including granulated mineral wool fibers and an organic binder such as a starch gel. The slurry or pulp may also ~~contain~~ include other ingredients such as fillers and colorants.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 24 to read as follows:

As shown in greater detail in FIG. 2, the hopper (15) contains aggregate particles (16) which are fed onto the wet surface of the pulp in tray (11). The aggregate particles (16) are distributed across the pulp in the tray (11) by means of the hopper (15) in which ~~is a~~ machined roll (not shown) that is knurled or fluted so as to provide a uniform layer (17) of aggregate particles (16) across the wet surface of the pulp. As previously reported, the most preferred aggregate particles (16) are calcium carbonate, which have a bright white appearance.

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Amdt. dated May 13, 2008
Reply to Office Action of April 3, 2008

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 3 to read as follows:

The pulp was prepared by mixing the starch ~~get-gel~~ and mineral wool fibers in a pulp mixer for about 7 minutes to form a homogeneous mix. The pulp mix contained the following amounts: